

Story County Conservation Board
January 10, 2022
Story County Conservation Center, Ames, Iowa via Zoom

1. SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC: Due To The Increasing Number Of COVID-19 Cases In Iowa And Story County, And In Order To Help Protect Our Community, It Was Decided By The Board To Hold This Meeting Via Zoom.
2. STATEMENT EXPLAINING WHY A MEETING IN PERSON IS IMPOSSIBLE OR IMPRACTICAL, PER CODE SECTION 21.8.1
3. CALL TO ORDER: 5:30 PM

4. ROLL CALL

BOARD MEMBERS

Craig Meyers – present
Christine Laumer – present
Nancy Franz – present
Jim Pease – present
Ted Tedesco – present
Linda Murken – present

STAFF

Mike Cox
Marianne Harrelson
Joe Kooiker
Jerry Keys
Bobbi Donovan
Jake Smith

GUESTS

Jeff White

5. ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE TO NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Meyers administered the Oath of Office to Christine Laumer, who will serve through 2026.

6. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND HANDOUTS

7. PUBLIC COMMENTS – Jerry Keys introduced our new Naturalist, Bobbi Donovan to the board

8. ELECT 2022 OFFICERS

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Franz, nominating Laumer as Chair. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Laumer. MCU.

Meyers turned the gavel over to Laumer, who chaired the remainder of the elections.

MOTION by Pease, SECOND by Meyers, nominating Franz as Vice-Chair. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Pease, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Franz. MCU.

MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Franz, nominating Pease as Secretary. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, that nominations close with a unanimous ballot cast for Pease. MCU.

Laumer requested that Pease lead the remainder of the meeting.

9. STAFF REPORT – Joe Kooiker, Vegetation Management Biologist, submitted a written annual report. He reviewed the report and was available for comments and to answer questions.

10. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 6, 2021. MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. MCU.

11. APPROVAL OF CLAIMS AND RECEIPTS

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz. Board members questioned a few claims. Cox and Harrelson provided explanations. MCU.

12. FINANCIAL REPORTS AND UPDATES – Cox provided a brief update on the current financials. Harrelson clarified some information about the salaries that had been discussed at a few of the prior meetings.

13. CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS/MEETINGS

The next board meeting is scheduled for February 14th.

14. ACTION ITEMS:

- A. Action Form – Promotion from Conservation Technician II to Operations Supervisor, effective 1/17/22, Russ DeWall @ \$2,114.91/bw.; Promotion from Conservation Technician I to Conservation Technician II, effective 1/17/22, Joe Hill @ \$22.94/hr.; Promotion from Conservation Technician I to Operations Supervisor, effective 1/17/22, Jacob Smith @ \$2,094.11/bw.; Promotion from Conservation Technician I to Conservation Technician II, effective 1/17/22, Dillon Schmidt @ \$21.74/hr. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Cox explained the position structure for each shop. MCU.
- B. Consideration Of 2022 Legislative Priorities. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Meyers. Cox explained that some of the items on our list of priorities are the same as what CCDA and ISAC bring forward. We removed the Public Measures on General Election Ballot since that was completed last legislative session. We added Support Policies and Funding to Reduce Generation of Greenhouse Gases. Pease requested that a correction be made to the REAP section to Eliminate sunset and fully fund REAP. MCU.
- C. Resolution No. 2022-03 Endorsing A Grant Application To The CIRTPA Transportation Alternatives Program For Hard Surfacing/Trail Improvements On The Heart Of Iowa Nature Trail From 610th Avenue To 620th Avenue. MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Laumer. Cox indicated that we received two grants for the paving to 610th Avenue and this would be the next phase of the project. This phase is estimated to cost \$400,000 and there is only \$250,000 available for this year's grant. This grant is for FY26 but we can ask for the grant to be reprogrammed for an earlier date. MCU.
- D. Consideration Of Agreement Between Story County, Iowa, Story County Conservation Board, And The City Of Ames, Iowa For Funding Assistance For Water Nutrient Removal Practices Of Up To \$41,000.00 (Unbudgeted). MOTION by Meyers, SECOND by Tedesco. Cox explained that there is another possible funding source for this request, but until that is approved, we would like to continue this request for general county funds at this time. If we are approved for the other funding, then we will not need to use the county funding. The City of Ames will act as Fiscal Agent and they will handle all of the agreements, easements, funding arrangements, etc. The City of Ames will provide funding for projects in HUC 12 watersheds upstream of the Ames Wastewater Treatment facility. Story County will provide funding assistance for projects in the remaining HUC

12 watersheds throughout the county. IDALS and NRCS are also contributing some financial support towards some of these projects. MCU.

- E. Consideration Of South Skunk River Water Trail Memorandum Of Agreement. MOTION by Franz, SECOND by Laumer. Cox mentioned that when we did the dedication on the water trail last year, it was discovered that the MOA had not been completed. All parties have the agreement on their board to approve within the next week. Story County Conservation is the Water Trail Sponsor and will work with the assistance of the IA DNR. This agreement details responsible parties for maintenance of the water trail. MCU.

15. UPDATES

A. General Updates: Director Cox updated the board on current open staff positions. He has five project requests for ARPA funding. There are some other projects that may be eligible for the Economically Significant Water Projects funding. IDALS may have some funding available that we are looking at for the McFarland Lake project. There is another funding potential through the Association of State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. We submitted a grant request last week with the IA DNR for \$5 million in Story County streambank stabilization projects (\$15 million total grant request). We received an agreement back from the Iowa Regional Utilities Assoc. It is being reviewed by the Story County Attorney. The City of Colo is ready to put it on their agenda. The IRUA will fund the project and charge Story County Conservation a connection fee of \$533,000. This agreement is for phase 1 of the project – eliminating the lagoon and connecting the existing system (beach house, shower house, and residence) to Colo with additional volume capacity for some additional park development.

B. Liaison Assignments, Committee Meetings Updates, and Announcements from the Board: Franz has been attending several climate change meetings. She has been leading some hiking groups on the Greenbelt and East Peterson Park. Laumer wanted to make sure that everyone received a link to the Deppe property survey. Murken stated that she has been reviewing the final rule on the use of ARPA funds. It has been very difficult trying to understand the rules and asking for patience waiting for funding decisions. She and the other Board of Supervisors have been attending some of the pipeline meetings and opposing them using eminent domain. A majority of the counties impacted are objecting to the use of eminent domain. She is working with a group of Story County staff to get a list of questions for the pipelines to make sure they understand Story County and how many drainage districts they will run through, how many districts tiles they may cross, how many rivers, creeks, roads, etc. They are meeting with one of the pipeline representatives next week. The pipelines are not able to use eminent domain against a county government.

16. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Tedesco, SECOND by Franz, to adjourn. MCU. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM.

Recording Secretary

Story County Conservation Board